

MIL • ATARI MIA

Milwaukee Area Atari Users Group

Vol. 6 No. 4

Price \$2.00

March 1987

NEXT MEETING:

SATURDAY, MARCH 28
Curtin Hall, Room 175 - UWM

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12:00 NOON - ST SIG STARTS
12:00 NOON - ACTION - 'C' CLASS
1:00 PM - BUSINESS MEETING, DEMOS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING:

MONDAY, MARCH 30, 1987
at The Ground Round
Hwy. 100 & Bluemound
7:00 PM

all are invited!!



The President's Corner

by Ron Friedel

A lot has been happening since we moved to UW-M and I hope to fill you in with this article.

First of all, I got a good number of people to volunteer for the positions that I talked about in last month's newsletter. I expect that you all can see that we have a new newsletter editor. His name is Paul Kuehn. Other members who volunteered to help with the newsletter were Mike Sherwood, George Welland and Ted Buck.

Dennis Bogle is switching jobs with Bob Bobinger with Dennis becoming the 8-bit public domain disk librarian and Bob taking over the membership list. My son, David, said that he wants to handle the kids corner. Dave Bauer called to volunteer and I talked him into trying to put together an 8-bit "Intro to MILATARI, LTD." disk which we would try to sell in the local computer stores. Dennis Wilson, the ST librarian, is working on a similar disk for the ST. Bill Feest, the publications librarian, is also taking care of the newsletter exchange mailing list. Lee Musial volunteered to do more but I had convinced him that being the librarian for the donated software was enough of a job in itself. Everett Rantanten & Gary Haberman also volunteered at the February meeting, but at the

time all the positions were filled. We'll find something for them; just give us time.

The user groups of southeast Wisconsin and northern Illinois are sponsoring an Atarifest. It will be held on July 25-26 at the Ramada O'Hare Convention Center. At the present time, Mike Sherwood is attending the planning meetings and will keep us informed.

I am looking at the long expected incorporation papers. We finally have this official looking document from the Secretary of State of Wisconsin that says that our group is now known as MILATARI, LTD., and we are a nonstock corporation. We now will need to make a few minor changes in our Constitution and then we can file for non-profit status with the IRS. The Constitution changes will need to be voted on by the members at a normal meeting. At this point I could use some legal advice on just how to proceed; are there any lawyers in MILATARI? If so, please call me.

We are going to try to start again a listing of people who are willing to talk to others and help answer questions about hardware and software. These people should have used the computers for some time, not necessarily experts (although we'll use any experts we can find). It would

be best if we could confine you to certain topics, such as 8-bit, 16-bit, communications, graphics, music, hardware repairs, etc. Maybe you don't want to be confined to a certain topic. I guess that then we could come up with the title "Atari Guru" but you would have to be willing to take all those telephone calls. So call me and volunteer. We will try to have a list of people and topics in next month's newsletter. As for me, I'll try to answer any 8-bit related questions but don't ask me anything about games; I don't play them.

Carl Mielcarek and my wife, Sandy, are trying to get better organized at the sign-in table. You should see some different procedures that will hopefully make things move more smoothly. Carl likes to give away door prizes, so we will give out some more at the March meeting.

Remember, the March meeting is on Saturday, March 28th at UW-M. I'll see you then in the afternoon.

-Ron

NOMINATIONS AND VOLUNTEERS, PLEASE

by Mike Sherwood

Now is the time for all good members to come to the aid of their computer club. It's your turn to grab the reins and be one of the guiding forces behind MILATARI.

Nominations for the following leadership positions are being accepted:

- 1) President
- 2) Vice President
- 3) Secretary
- 4) Treasurer.

Also needed are volunteers to help new members. Remember all the help you could have used if only there was someone to give you advice? We need some of you oldtimers familiar with either eight bit or ST to give a small amount of your time towards a good cause...our future leaders of MILATARI. If you've ever been told that you have a big mouth, we need you.

MILATARI is also looking for someone to help publicize the club.

This highly lucrative nonpaid position will entail contacting newspapers, radio stations, television stations, and magazines. Just think of it. Not only do you get to help your club, but if you do a really good job, you'll be rolling with the big wheels at NBC, CBS, ABC, and maybe even Ron Friedel.

Contact any club officer for more information about any of the above positions.



From the Editor

by Paul Kuehn

First off, I would like to extend a sincere thank-you to Roy Duvall for all the time and hard work that he's donated to all of us in producing the newsletter for the past 2 years. He's done a great job handling a task that we sometimes probably take for granted. On behalf of all of us - thanks, Roy.

Next, allow me to introduce myself. My name is Paul Kuehn, and I am your new editor. I am fairly new to the club, having joined in September, so most of you probably don't know me yet. I am also rather new to computers, since I have only owned one since March of last year. After receiving a used (Don't laugh, now!) VIC-20 for a birthday gift, I saw the light and in June bought a 4040ST. Quite a jump!

Since then, I have become addicted. My prime interest is in the area of desktop publishing (more on that later), but I have also dabbled in programming (Personal Pascal), and electronic music via a Casio synthesizer. Curiously, it was the synthesizer and my interest in electronic music that got me interested in computers in the first place, and I was originally attracted to the ST because of its MIDI ports. Strangely though, the music has now taken a back seat to all the rest. I might also add that by the time I made the purchase, the MIDI ports were only a small factor in my choosing the ST; the decision was based on its unequaled price/performance ratio.

So what is desktop publishing? To put it simply, desktop publishing is a fairly new technology by which the entire task of page layout and typesetting is handled on the screen with a program that shows the entire page as it will appear in the final printed form. All keylining, and graphics paste-up is also handled by the program, on the screen. It is this

new technology which created the newsletter you now hold in your hands.

Desktop publishing originated on the Apple Macintosh. Its mouse and graphics operating system coupled with a variety of built in fonts, made desktop publishing a logical development. And now thanks to programs like SoftLogik's Publishing Partner (used for this newsletter), desktop publishing has arrived on the ST.

While all of this makes a slick looking newsletter easier than ever before, it's the content that makes it either good or bad. And here's where you come in. That's right, I may be the editor, but an editor needs something to edit! I know you've heard this before, but for this newsletter to be successful, it needs YOUR input! All of you have computers, or you wouldn't be in the membership roster. And therefore, I doubt that there is anyone out there that that doesn't own at least one word processor program. Put it to use! Each of you has something to share; each of you is unique and has your own special areas of interest. Tell the rest of us about them. I am not asking for a Pulitzer prize winning manuscript, anything will do. If you think your writing is a little rough, don't worry about it, that's what an editor is for. Bought any programs lately? Write a review! Got some questions? Send those in too. Try something new!

Now, if you still need more encouragement, try this on. Anyone who submits an article for this newsletter will receive a free disk of your choice from one of our Public Domain libraries.

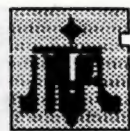
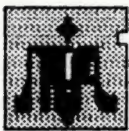
This plea for submissions applies especially to you users of 8-bit Ataris. I must confess that since I have never owned one, I know next

to nothing about these computers and their software. Therefore, I must rely on you who do. I'm sure you don't want to see this newsletter turn into another ST Journal, and I don't want that either. (Especially since we ST owners represent a minority of the total membership.) But without your help, all I can do is reprint articles from other clubs' newsletters. But I can't even do that well, since I don't have the slightest idea what news will interest you.

Maybe one of you would like to be the XL/XE Editor? You supply me with the articles, I'll put it all together. Give me a call if you're interested.

One final thought, and I'll drop the subject (for now). One of the motivations in moving our meeting place to UWM was the potential for new members, with all the benefits that that entails. Perhaps you've never thought about it, but one of the reasons people join organizations like this is to receive the newsletter. If you don't believe that, ask yourself why our membership is more than twice as large as the number of people who regularly attend the meetings! They didn't send us \$20.00 as a charitable donation, they expect to get something for it. If our newsletter consists of nothing but reprints of information they have seen elsewhere, why pay for it? If you want to keep these people, and get them to become active, let's let the newsletter show them that we have something to offer them.

In closing, I hope you like the new format. Next month it will be better yet. And someday, maybe I can arrange to have it laser printed. Until then, keep smiling!



MY FIRST MEETING AT U.W.M.

by Mike Sherwood

After searching and searching for a parking place, I decided to give up and just go ahead and take the parking space in front of Curtin Hall instead of the one I found five blocks away.

When I entered the hall, I found that the facilities were very impressive. The public address system made it easier to hear what was being discussed by the speaker instead of what was being discussed around me. However I have made a firm commitment to try to hear what is happening behind me next meeting. When we figure out how to connect all the monitors along both sides of the hall, I'll even be able to talk to the guys on either side of me and still see what's going on with the demos in front.

The ST SIG meeting was packed with standing room only (probably by people looking for the soda machines). The kids and I were having a great time riding the elevators until Bruce Welch kicked us out. I heard at the last board meeting that we won't be able to run in the halls either, because next meeting there will be a supervised playroom (I can hardly wait!).

I want to thank whoever locked our librarians, Bill Feest and Lee Musial, away in the room off the main hall. This made it easier for me to avoid returning all those overdue books and programs I'm saving for my future grandchildren.

By the way, anyone know what a "poop list" is? Maybe I should ask Roy at the next board meeting.

It was refreshing to see all the new faces at our club meeting but I almost missed seeing Carl Mielcarek, our treasurer; it seems that he has a "cage" to stand behind to help him protect our funds. Would be thieves be forewarned that rumor has it that Carl keeps an Uzzle submachine gun behind that tall counter.

Carl should be pleased though, because when I stopped to say hi to Dennis Wilson and Dale Phillips, our club ST disk librarian and cashier, I had to wait in line for fifteen minutes.

All in all I had a good time and look forward to seeing you at the next meeting.

AND NOW A WORD FROM OUR SPONSORS...

by Mike Sherwood

First of all I would like to thank our only advertiser, Computer Software Center, for their continued support and in turn suggest that before you buy software, magazines, or books, you should stop in and check out their prices and selection. It's always nice to find knowledgeable and friendly salespersons like Tom and Virginia. I know from personal experience that you can trust them to give honest advice and they back up what they sell.

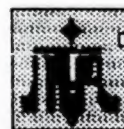
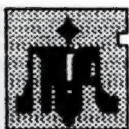
Now, the question I have is... where are the rest of the advertisers? Where are the local businesses and where are the national advertisers? When a salesperson doesn't know the correct answer to a customer's

question they usually direct that person to us for help. And when a national advertiser wants to sell to a specific market (Atari owners) they don't hesitate to send out brochures for us to distribute. What is the reason for hesitation to support the user groups that help these businesses? Milatari is a nationally recognized users group that has a newsletter read by not only our local members but also by several (over one hundred) clubs throughout the country. Where else can your ad reach so many potential customers for such a low cost? This means that you as an advertiser can get more for your advertising dollar. And not only do you profit from your printed ad but you also profit from

the word of mouth support given to those advertisers wise enough to know where the grass roots of computing is. Think about it.

If you are not a member of Milatari, and you have this newsletter in your hands now, (this is directed to our potential advertisers), it is probably because we were gracious enough to give you a free subscription. If we have helped you in the past or can in the future please don't hesitate to count on us. Can we have your help? Your ad in this newsletter will benefit both of our organizations.

To our members: don't forget to tell our only advertiser, the Computer Software Center, that you read about them here.



Atari's IBM Clones Delayed

-reprinted from Computer + Software News, February 9 1987

SUNNYVALE, Calif. -- A series of snags will delay delivery of Atari's new IBM-compatible PC's, which were announced at the Consumer Electronics Show.

Apparently there are two primary problems: Negotiations with Digital Research and FCC approval for the computers. However, competitors speculate that the new computers may be "vaporware".

The machines, which were originally slated for March shipment, are now not expected until much later in the year, according to reports surfacing last week.

"We've been told now that the PC's won't ship until August," said Bob Schuricht, marketing director at Computer Software Service, a leading Atari distributor.

Atari had announced that, along with IBM compatibility, the machines would come with GEM built in, a move that would *make some 700 ST titles available to purchasers.* [??? Italics mine -Ed.] But negotiations with DRI appear to be stalled and, according to that firm, no agreement currently exists.

"We're working on it," explained DRI communications director Gail Steiner. A DRI insider, however, said the negotiations are further apart now than they were when the machines were announced.

Atari also has yet to apply to the FCC for clearance on its new machines, according to that agency's records. That process can take as little as 40 days if no testing is needed.

One industry observer likened the situation to the ill-fated delay of the Osborne II several years ago, a move which drove that firm into bankruptcy.

"The delay like that will certainly hurt the machines' competitive

chances in the marketplace. It's really a major tactical error on Atari's part," agreed Schuricht.

One member of Atari's sales staff has reported that the machines don't exist at all right now - a rumor that has led several competitors to term the PC's "vaporware".

"It damages all of us," said one competing computer maker. "Announcing products that aren't real tarnishes everyone's efforts."

Atari flatly denies another contention that the products were announced at CES to shift attention away from similar introductions by Commodore, Victor and Amstrad.

The rumors have, however, heightened frustration among Atari's dealers, who say that the announcement of the DOS machines has caused them serious problems in selling the ST line.

Atari recently reported sales of \$91 million for its fourth quarter ended Dec. 31, a 39% increase over the \$65 million in sales reported during the comparable period a year ago. Preliminary sales results for 1986 were reported at \$256 million, compared to \$142 million in 1985.

Although the Federated Group would not comment officially on ST sales, members of the firm's staff confirmed that sales have slipped badly.

Schuricht indicated that CSS has not seen a serious drop in ST sales, but acknowledged that the company has been unhappy with order fulfillment for the line during the past month.

"I'd like to support Atari, when they ship the products, but right now we're doing very well with the Blue Chip," said Schuricht, adding that CSS is currently selling 100 Blue Chip units per week. --

computer quote of the month

Q

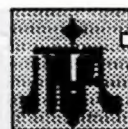
What is the difference between hardware and software?

A

Hardware is something that if you use it long enough, it breaks.

Software is something that if you use it long enough, it works.

- Stewart Cheifet,
The Computer Chronicles



SOFTWARE REVIEW

Antic's CRYSTAL

FOR THE ATARI ST

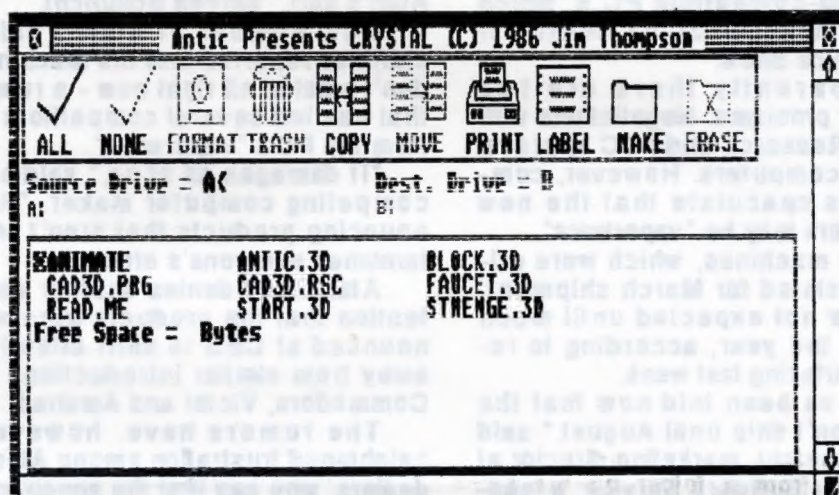
by Paul J. Kuehn

Picture this: You are busily working with a program, when you realize that you had better save your work, because you've already got quite a bit of time invested in it. But when you try to save it, an alert box flashes on the screen telling you that your disk is full! To make matters worse, you remember that you haven't yet formatted any of the new disks that you just bought, and the program you are in won't let you format a disk without first exiting. And that will destroy all the work you've done so far!

Sound familiar? Well, if you have Antic Software's Crystal loaded as a desk accessory, problems like this are a thing of the past. Not only will Crystal allow you to format a new disk, it gives you all of your other GEM desktop file management functions as well. Additionally, it brings you some new abilities that Digital Research, Inc. left out of GEM. And since Crystal is a Desk Accessory, all of this is available to you without ever leaving your favorite GEM program.

When Crystal is selected from the drop down Desk menu, it produces a large window on the screen (see figure). The top row of this window contains icons titled All, None, Format, Trash, Copy, Move, Print, Label, Make (folder), Erase (folder). Three of these, Format, Trash and Copy perform normal desktop functions, and are self-explanatory. The others may require some description.

First, to perform any function, you first click the mouse cursor on one or more of the filenames displayed in the lower part of the



Crystal's main window showing directory.

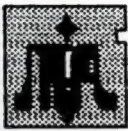
window. If you wish to select all of the files on the disk (or directory) you can simply click on the ALL icon. Similarly, to deselect all files, click on the NONE icon. A check mark will appear in front of any selected files. Now you click on one of the icons to carry out the desired action.

But wait, there's more! Suppose you wish to select a group of files, for example, to print out all of the files ending with a .DOC extender. In the middle of the window, you see the line that says, "Source Drive - A:". Double clicking to the right of this will produce a dialog box titled "Global Selection". Here you can define either a given extender, or all files that begin with the same letters, regardless of their extender. For example, you could select all files that start with 1STWORD. You can also use this box to globally rename a group of files; for example, from .DOC to .TXT.

Back in the main window again, if you wish to find out how

much free space is left on the disk, simply click on the line that reads "Free Space - Bytes". This information can be very handy, because some programs, such as CAD-3D, do not produce alert boxes if you try to save to a full disk, the programs simply crash! This feature allows you to check a questionable disk in advance.

Crystal also allows you to Move files, something that the GEM desktop does not permit. Normally, if you wish to move a file from within a folder to the root directory of a disk, you have to go through a rather elaborate procedure. First, you must open a second window, so that you now have one window showing the folder contents, and another showing the root directory. You then copy the file from one window to the other. But now you have two copies of it, and must delete the first by dragging it to the trash can. Whew! Crystal's Move command provides a much more elegant



Crystal's Label printing dialog box allows you to specify a directory title, shown here as Disk #1. The numbers on the same line are printer codes that you can specify to have the printout formatted to your liking.

A screenshot of the 'Print Directory' dialog box. It has a title bar with 'CANCEL', 'Print Directory', and 'OK' buttons. Inside, there are two input fields: 'Paper' with the text 'I:27,14,"Disk #1",27,"P",10,13' and 'Label' with the text 'I:"Disk #1",10,13,27,"A",7,27,15'. Below these is a 'Columns:3' field.

A screenshot of the 'Print Setup' dialog box. It has a title bar with 'Ascii: ALL', 'Print Setup', 'OK', and 'Cancel' buttons. Inside, there are two input fields: 'Head' with the text 'L:Listing of @' and 'Foot' with the text 'C:Page & R:'. Below these is a 'Line Length:82' field.

Crystals "Print Setup" dialog box allows you to specify headers and footers as well as automatic page numbering. As shown here, the program will automatically substitute the filename for the "@" symbol, but you could insert your own title instead.

solution. Files can be moved into and out of folders, or to other drives. If you are moving files to or from a folder on the same disk, the program simply renames the file. This means that if your disk is full, you can still carry out this option, because the program does not need room to make a duplicate. This feature makes it easy to organize your files into folders even after they have been created.

Selecting the Print icon allows you to print any file to the screen or the printer, and also allows you to select either ASCII characters only, or all codes. If you are sending the output to the printer, you can also specify headers, footers, line width to print, and whether or not to create page numbers. (These parameters can also be specified as default values by running a program that creates a configuration file which Crystal consults at boot up. This installation program is included on the disk with Crystal.)

The Label icon permits you to print disk directories, either to labels or to plain paper. Here you can specify printer codes to be sent to the printer to control

line and character spacing so that the information can be printed tighter, thereby enabling you to fit it all on the disk label. You can also specify titles for the label.

This feature does have at least one quirk, however. It cannot see into folders. This means that you must first print out the root directory, then open each folder in turn to print out their respective directories! In my opinion, this could be improved.

Like any program, Crystal is not without it's bugs. One problem I have encountered is that the Erase Folder option frequently will not work. This is

not a serious flaw, however, since it is rarely necessary to accomplish this from within a program, and you can always wait till you get back to the desktop. Also, as with any desk accessory, do not try to access Drive B if you only have a single drive system. Due to a bug in GEM, the system may crash if GEM tries to produce an alert box while the accessory is running. This can take the form of a "time bomb" since it may not actually crash until later on.

All in all, I find Crystal to be a very useful accessory, well worth the 30K of memory that it occupies. It can be especially useful for those of us who use ramdisks. While ramdisks are great for their speed, a ramdisk is not the most secure place to store a file you are working with. Crystal allows you to periodically copy your working files to a floppy disk without having to return to the desktop. This can be a real lifesaver in the event of a system crash.

At only \$24.95, I consider Crystal to be a real bargain.

CRYSTAL

Description: Multi-function Desk Accessory

Hardware Requirements: Atari 520ST or 1040ST

Memory Requirements: 30K

Features: Format disks, inspect disk directory, copy files, move files, delete files, Print files, print disk directories, make folders, delete folders.

List price: \$24.95

Contact: Antic/The Catalog, 544 Second Street, San Francisco, CA, 94107





FREE LOCAL ACCESS TO PACKET SWITCHING NETWORKS MAY BE ELIMINATED

by Tim Elmer

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) will vote on a proposal to reregulate packet switching networks that, if approved, would eliminate free local telephone access to those networks. "If this occurs, it might eventually double or triple the costs to those using packet switching networks to access commercial on-line databases and information services and triple or quadruple the costs to those using Telenet's PC Pursuit," said Phillip M. Walker, vice president and regulatory counsel for Telenet Corp. "In terms of cost impact," Walker said, "If we had to pay local access charges, it would cost us about \$3.60 an hour at the originating end, for calls made by users to on-line databases and information services like CompuServe and The Source.... And with PC Pursuit, for which we have out-dial modems, we would have to pay not only \$4.60 per hour access fees at the originating end, but also \$4.80 at the terminating end, a total of about \$8.00 or \$9.00. Obviously, to survive, we would have to add those additional charges to our current fees and pass them on to our consumers."

That would almost certainly spell the end of PC Pursuit, and it would likely put out of business not only many independent packet switching networks, but also many on-line databases and information services. FCC approval of changes being considered in Computer III, Walker said, "would really have a major impact on anyone using a packet switching service to access on-line bulletin boards, databases, or information services aimed at the residential user. They are just going to get creamed if this happens."

Walker said that it was not clear exactly when the FCC would vote on the proposal, but that it would probably be the latter part of January or early part of February 1987. "They are moving very fast on this," he said. **

-- reprinted from H.A.C.E Newsletter, January 1987 --

IMPORTANT BULLETIN

• DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS POSSIBLE •

The FCC is considering reregulating the packet-switching networks like Telenet, Tymnet, CompuServe, The Source and PC Pursuit. This could result in additional costs to the user. This is excerpted from Infomat magazine.

LOW COST PACKET SWITCHING SERVICE THREATENED

by Alan R. Bechtold

The FCC is now considering a major change in the way packet switched phone services are defined. This change is likely to lead to the demise of many of these services, and to much higher prices for the use of the few that will eventually remain in business.

At the risk of over-simplification, I think I should first describe just what a packet switched network is. These are the services you use to access on-line databases and commercial on-line services, such as CompuServe and The Source, with just a local telephone call. Once you call the local Telenet or Tymnet number, for example, and a connection is made, you are then connected with a computer that puts you in communication with the on-line services with which you wish to communicate.

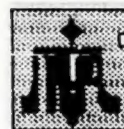
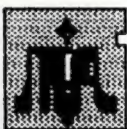
This computer is handling a number of calls into the main system computer at the same time. It takes information you send and delivers it in "packets" to the proper destination, picks up information from the on-line service computer you called, and sends it, also in "packets", back to you. All of this communication is done in these so called "packets" because this allows the network's computers to offer protocol conversion and handle several ongoing communications sessions at the same time.

FCC regulations allow AT&T and Bell Operating Companies (BOCs) to engage in packet switching network operations, but they must also maintain completely separate accounting of their voice and packet switching operations. They must also offer free local calling access to their lines to any competitors engaged in the packet switching service industry.

The above regulations have allowed Telenet and Tymnet, among others, to operate at a reasonable cost in a competitive atmosphere. This is a case of regulation of a business actually RESULTING in increased competition and lower prices to consumers.

As things stand now, you can call any local Telenet or Tymnet access number and use these services to inexpensively access such on-line services as CompuServe, The Source, Delphi, and countless others. In addition, GTE's new PC Pursuit service now offers you access, through their Telenet packet switching service, to literally hundreds of local bulletin boards in cities all across the country -- for a flat charge of \$25.00 per month.

But, The FCC is now being asked to REREGULATE this segment of the communications industry, eliminating the FCC requirements that AT&T and BOCs keep separate accounting records of their voice and



packet switching services, and eliminating the stipulation that the BOCs and AT&T must offer their competitors in the packet switching business free access to their local telephone connection lines.

The idea is patently ridiculous. Mark Fowler, Chairman of the FCC, has been hailed by the press as a "fair-market zealot". The chances are very good that he views this proposed reregulation as the magic road to increased competition and fairer pricing for consumers.

Unofficially, the word is out that the FCC advisory committee now considering this matter is indeed leaning in favor of the proposed reregulation of the packet switching industry. If the committee recommends these changes, it's likely that a majority of the five voting members on the Federal Communications Commission will vote in favor of the changes.

I have talked to sources within the industry who say it is the BOCs who are pushing VERY HARD for reregulation, because they want to get into the packet switching service business in a big way, and they would like to rid themselves of needless competition on their way to success.

What's that? RID themselves of competition? But, the proposed reregulation is supposed to FOSTER competition! Why would a group of companies (BOCs) hoping to eliminate their competition PUSH for this reregulation? I hope the answer

to THAT question is entirely clear.

Here we have an industry that is currently populated with plenty of competition. Prices are already reasonable. Reregulation of the packet switching service industry will IMMEDIATELY give giant corporations the upper hand, and will allow them to cut off free access to their local access phone lines to their competitors, namely Telenet and Tymnet and other services that now offer you high quality service, in a competitive marketplace, at reasonable prices.

The proposed reregulation, however, would force all packet switching services to compete with the BOCs and AT&T, companies that would be able to use the enormous profits they earn with their voice telephone services to cross-subsidize their packet switching services and offer them on a non-compensatory basis, at least until their competitors are eliminated. When that happens, they are then sure to jack up their fees to any level they want.

It would also force their packet switching competitors to pay access fees for connection to local phone lines. The access fees alone could add as much as \$4.00 per hour to the fees packet switching companies would be forced to pass on to their customers. This will be added to your hourly connect-time charges for accessing ALL on-line databases through these services.

The proposed reregulation could very well spell the death of PC Pursuit.

Because GTE also uses dial-out modems at the other end of their Telenet connections for PC Pursuit service, the company would be forced to pay an hourly charge at BOTH ends of the phone line - totaling up to \$8.00 or \$9.00 per hour. These fees would have to be added to the flat \$25.00 per month that GTE now charges for access to PC Pursuit. It would simply make the final cost to PC Pursuit customers too high for the service to remain practical and affordable.

So -- this is ONE TIME you MUST use your word processor to produce some letters opposing this proposed reregulation! Write to:

Honorable Mark Fowler
Chairman of the Federal
Communications Commission
Washington D.C. 20554

Refer to Computer Inquiry III in your letters. State clearly, in your own words, that competitive packet switching services should not be reregulated or subjected to carrier access charges, and then explain why not. Tell Mr. Fowler that reregulation of packet switching services will completely destroy the existing fair market for these services, and eventually increase costs, NOT DECREASE them.

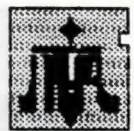
And hurry! I have heard this matter will be going before the FCC for a vote in the latter part of January or early part of February. Time is running out. --

POSTSCRIPT:

An article discussing this same topic appeared recently in the April 1987 issue of *Computer's Atari ST* magazine. They did not indicate that the matter had been already settled, so there is still probably time to voice your opinion. As we all know, government does not always accomplish things by their intended deadlines.

- Paul Kuehn

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The following new ST disks will be added to our public domain ST library. They are filled to single-sided capacity. The cost is \$5.00 for each disk, but buy 3, get 1 free. This covers the disk and copying costs.

<u>NUM</u>	<u>DISK TYPE</u>	<u>INCLUDED PROGRAMS</u>
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082	Utility	Mailcall, Windows, Analyzer, Speller2, Bodem, Degadisp, Disklabl, Drdfnt, and Rdskdarc.
083	Utility	Fontconv, Labels, Li, Liadram, Megablit, Mcrobill, and paysched.
084	Utility	Mikyterm, Picblast, Rtc12, Scrnsve2, Spell14, Spool, Superfmt, Imde;ete. Volume2, Filehide, Gemfed, Harris, Neoview, Xdr, and Alarmclk.
085	Games	Cadenza, Cracked, Football, Openings, Pong, and Ringball.
086	Demo	Expopinn, Starfire, Altspeak, Gemdemo, Autocell.
087	Demo	GFABasic, Poleposi, Spechbbs, and Textdemo.
088	Tiny Pic	Cabbie, Calculat, CCastles, Chalcrew, Challe, Champagn, Charles, Chatter, Cheers, Checkov, Cheque, Chess, Chess1, Chebal, Chris, Chrise, Christy, Church, Circus, Citizen, Classisfi, Claudia, Cnvrtabl, Coblston, Coke, Cokecan, and Coyote.
089	Tiny Pic	Collecti, Colors, Combat, Commie, Computer, Conan, Conan2, Concil, Coolpic1, Coolpic2, Cottage, Cougar, Countac1, Countac2, Countac3, Cover, Cowboy, Craters, Crystal, And Cybermen.
090	Tiny Pic	Critics, Crossing, Crystal, Curncy02, Cutrjohn, Cybill, Cycle1, Cycle 2, Cycle 3, Cycle4, Daffy, Dali, Dali2, Danak, Danblast, Darkness, Darkstar, Davros, Deathstr, and Deathstr2.

-Dennis Wilson, ST Public Domain Librarian



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